



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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5-31-99

In re the Application of: **WATANABE, et al**

Group Art Unit: 2825

Serial No.: 09/320,271

Examiner: Calvin Lee

Filed: May 27, 1999

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4409

For. **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each document is attached along with a translation of a Japanese Office Action. It should be noted that JP 09-312339, cited in the Office Action, has already been made of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies

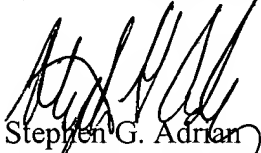
XX that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement. Two copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

  
Stephen G. Adrian  
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Reg. No. 32,878

Enclosures: PTO-1449 and 2 References and  
Translation of a Japanese Office Action

SGA/arf  
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